

CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

Bryce, Grand Canyon & Zion

Epic National Parks of the Southwest

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

Three American Adventures in One

Even as adults we play the pioneer game every time we visit this monumental trio of national parks. Imagine cresting the hill in your Conestoga wagon to behold these sights. How would you have reacted to canyons so deep, rock this red, bridges of stone and boulders poised on slender spires? These days, many visitors miss that sense of wonder as they RV past major points of interest. The Classic Journeys approach is different. We partner you with our knowledgeable guides who interpret what you see. (Did you know, for example, that the original Grand Canyon may have been created cataclysmically by the sudden draining of an inland sea?) We'll make sure you get to less visited areas and experience the richness of the area's geologic and human history, and we do it all without undue exertion. Enjoy easy trails—not to mention gracious lodges—for a memorable journey of discovery.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on national park trails. An average of 2 - 4 hours of walking per day.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

Grand Canyon

You'll gather in St. George, a pioneer town surrounded by colorful sandstone cliffs and located in the southwest corner of Utah. From here, set out for the Grand Canyon, where stately ponderosa pine forests welcome you and you can be on the lookout for condors that nest here. Get your first views of the Grand Canyon on approach to your perfectly sited rim-side lodge, while your guide shares insight on the geologic events that created this natural wonder.

An afternoon walk leads to your guide's favorite vista point overlooking Roaring Springs, Bright Angel Canyon and the South Rim. And the canyon is not the only draw, as the birding is terrific here, too. You can often spot bald eagles overhead, and swifts and swallows nest along the cliff faces. What is your drink of choice that will match the grandeur of these views? Have a glass of that at the ready, and head to the lodge's veranda as you take in the spectacular views as far as the eye can see. Prefer a pre-dinner perambulation? Take a short sunset walk along the rim that highlights the natural history of this magnificent chasm.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: GRAND CANYON

DAY 2 »

Grand Canyon

Very few tourists actually ever get to the best walking along the Grand Canyon's North Rim. Not so for you, because you're a Classic Journeys traveler and explorer. And so you enjoy the benefit of our intensive local knowledge and incredibly well-connected guides. With them, you're off on an adventure today to collect the most magnificent views on a series of curated walks.

Your handcrafted itinerary bookends a spectacularly-sited picnic lunch and leads you to Cape Royal, the only spot on the North Rim where you can look down and see the Colorado River, as well as the rapids created by Unkar Wash. Far to the south, the San Francisco Peaks tower above Flagstaff, Arizona.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: GRAND CANYON

DAY 3 »

Bryce Canyon

Have your camera ready; over the course of the week you'll have amazing animal sightings that even include magnificent big horn sheep. Arriving into Bryce Canyon National Park, get ready to marvel at how nature has shaped colorful limestone and sandstone into thousands of spires, fins, pinnacles and mazes, called hoodoos. These are the landscapes that inspired Ansel Adams and a generation of photographers to capture the stark contrasts of the sunlit shadows on the stone and the vast blue sky in their iconic imagery.

Channel your inner photographer, geologist, explorer on a scenic walk that ventures below the rim into the heart of Bryce Canyon on gentle switchbacks along the trail known as 'Wall Street', appropriately named for its walls of red rock looming on either side. You'll continue to the canyon floor for an up-close exploration of the hoodoos, the ancient rose-colored pillars of sand and stone that resemble a city of spires and minarets. As you walk among the natural formations, it's fascinating to imagine the castle turrets, windows, bridges, domes and other architectural features created by the natural erosion of the rocks. Along the way, your guide points out specific hoodoos, like Thor's Hammer, named to reflect their form and grandeur.

This evening after dinner, join our friend, Kenny, a genuine cowboy and equally authentic poet. Get comfortable under a blanket of stars (and maybe even a snuggly ranch blanket too) as you enjoy a night of music and storytelling.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: BRYCE

DAY 4 »

Bryce Canyon

Your morning is off to a spectacular start as you walk a particularly scenic portion of the Rim Trail overlooking the Bryce Amphitheater. Views of the cliff walls and rock formations come to life with vibrant gold colors as the sun moves across the rim walls in the distance. Soak in the sunrise before sitting down for breakfast and making your way to Zion National Park.

En route, you'll have the 'only with Classic Journeys' opportunity to have an entire slot canyon almost entirely to yourself. Explore on foot at eye level as you walk among the range of colorful canyons, sandstone cliffs, rocky deserts and cool forested plateaus. Listen for the sounds of water, from the babbling brooks to rushing waterfalls, adding to the peaceful atmosphere of your nature walk. You'll see firsthand the power of water and how even a gentle, constant flowing river or stream can create fantasmic and otherworldly formations in the stone. You very well may vote this your best walk of the trip just on the views, and the kicker is having it almost all to yourself.

Pause for a gourmet picnic in this serene setting, then continue on to Springdale, a riverside oasis adjacent to Zion National Park.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: ZION

DAY 5 »

Zion National Park

Fortified from breakfast, it's time to experience Zion Narrows, a justifiably iconic and magnificent highlight of the park. During your walk, you'll find yourself repeatedly gazing skyward as you follow the rock up along canyon walls that are about 2,000 feet high and sometimes only 20 feet apart. And it's not just the rock itself that is so amazing; the walls are adorned with colorful hanging gardens of wildflowers in the spring and summer, and vibrant foliage in the fall months. As you soak in the picture - perfect landscape and get your feet wet on explorations up the famous Zion Narrows, here is an important insider's tip: be very wary of companies that will send you up the Narrows on your own. They do that to avoid the permitting and limitations on group sizes that are required by the park. The Narrows is spectacular, but the water level in it changes not just from one season to the next but even from one day to the next. With Classic Journeys, you're permitted in a small group and led by our expert guides and with the appropriate gear. It's not just one of the ways to go, it is the only way to experience the Narrows.

Refreshed from lunch, follow a trail that offers beautiful views of the canyon walls and the lush vegetation that thrives along the water's edge. On your way to the Emerald Pools, learn from your guide about the verdant flora, which creates a green oasis in the desert landscape. The highlight of the hike is, of course, the emerald-colored pools.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: ZION

DAY 6 »

Zion National Park

This morning, the choice is yours for how you'd like to spend your time: experiencing nature yourself or seeing it through the eyes of iconic artists who have been inspired by this incredible natural environment. If you opt to experience it on foot at eye level yourself, join your guide for a walk along the Parus Trail, a riverside footpath that crosses the Virgin River over several bridges with beautiful views of Watchman Peak along the way.

Or browse Springdale's shops and art galleries that showcase the photography, ceramics, jewelry and Native American art which was

DAILY ITINERARY
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inspired by the beauty of Zion. Peruse the works of local artists at your own pace as you stroll through the quaint town. Round out the day with a short scenic drive to St. George, where you'll part company in the afternoon.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



Grand Canyon Lodge (North Rim)

The Grand Canyon Lodge is warm and welcoming, with limestone walls and timbered ceilings that complement the North Rim's rugged beauty. The lodge's terrace, with rustic wooden rocking chairs, is the ideal setting for a glass of wine at sunset.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



Bryce Canyon Lodge

Located inside the National Park near the canyon's rim, the Bryce Canyon Lodge is on the National Historic Register. Its grand lobby has been restored to its original rustic 1920s elegance. Relax by the fireplace after a full day of exploration.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



Desert Pearl Inn

A riverside oasis of sun hued stucco, old railroad timbers and native stone grace this beautiful property. Rooms feature private terraces or balconies and Adirondack chairs. Relax at the end of the day in the heated outdoor swimming pool or hot tub.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Inn on the Cliff**
START CITY: **St. George**
START TIME: **9:00 AM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Downtown City Center**
END CITY: **St. George**
END TIME: **3:30 PM**